

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

BIB-01 /065 W

----- 112975

R 151417Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4458

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USGJJION NA

B BRUSSELS 674

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 3367

1. OCTOBER 12 BUDAPEST PRESS CARRIED CURIOUS PEKING
DATE-LINED MTI (HUNGARIAN NEWS SERVICE) ITEM BY CORRESPONDENT
ENDRE ACZEL.

2. ACCORDING THIS ACCOUNT BASED ON "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES"
IN PEKING, PRC HAS "CONFIRMED SEMI-OFFICIALLY" THE POLITICAL
REHABILITATION OF PENG CHEN, FORMER MAYOR OF CHINESE CAPITAL.
UNTIL 1966 PENG CHEN ONE OF TOP LEADERS IN CHINESE COMMUNIST
PARTY AND OFTEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO MAO
TSE TUNG HIMSELF. AS OUTSTANDING POLITICAL AND STATE
LEADER AND MEMBER OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE,
PENG CHEN IMPLEMENTED IN THOSE YEARS "REMARKABLE
ORGANIZATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES." HE ELABORATED
ANTI-SOVIET LINE FOLLOWED BY CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY;
BUT HE LATER BECAME ONE OF FIRST TOP-RANKING VICTIMS OF
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CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

3. MTI STATES THAT TIN TIN JAT PO, HONG KONG NEWSPAPER, CARRIED ON OCTOBER 4 FIRST NEWS OF PENG CHEN'S REHABILITATION AND EVEN ALLEGED THAT HE HAD BEEN RESTORED TO MEMBERSHIP IN CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. BUT ENDRE ACZEL DISCLOSES THAT "SEMI-OFFICIAL SOURCES" IN PEKING DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT LATTER ALLEGATION IS TRUE.

4. COMMENT: MTI IS REGULARLY AND TRADITIONALLY FOLLOWER OF TASS AND MOSCOW PRESS LINE ON EVENTS IN FAR AWAY CHINA; NOT A LEADER. SPEED WITH WHICH MTI AND HUNGARIAN PRESS HOMED IN ON POLITICAL FORTUNES OF PENG CHEN WHOSE FATE IS OF SCANT CONCERN TO MAGYAR READERS IS AMAZING.
MCAULIFFE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUDAPE03367
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750357-0847
From: BUDAPEST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751053/aaaabumy.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: SOPN, PINT, HU, CH, MTI, (ACZEL, ENDRE), (PENG CHEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006